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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/776,833	02/11/2004	William C. Wendlandt	82483SLP	3019

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EXAMINER	
ARTMAN, THOMAS R	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2882	

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/776,833	WENDLANDT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thomas R. Artman	2882	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 February 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *11 February 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *11 February 2004*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3 and 5-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Armbruster (US 5,652,781) in view of Budinski (US 5,912,944).

Regarding claim 1, Armbruster discloses an X-ray film cassette (Figs.2, 5 and 7), including:

a) a primary molded screenside 14 and tubeside 12 plastic panels, each having a front side, a pair of lateral sides and a back side, where the back side of the tubeside panel has an integrally molded upstanding back wall terminating in a top edge (Fig.5, item 12,28),

b) a secondary molded framework 16 comprising first and second frames, each of the frames having border segments molded, respectively, to the backsides of each the screenside and tubeside panels (Fig.5), the back side border segment of the tubeside panel being molded to the top edge of the back wall (Fig.5, items 49-53), where the framework includes an integrally molded living hinge 46 segment joining the back side border

segment of the screenside panel to the back side border segment of the tubeside panel along the top edge of the back wall.

Armbruster does not specifically disclose that the secondary molded framework is molded to the lateral sides of the screenside and tubeside panels. The framework is only molded to the back sides of each panel.

Budinski specifically teaches a secondary molded framework 16 that is molded to the lateral and back sides of a screenside and tubeside panel 12, 14 (Fig.4), where the framework has an integrally molded living hinge 45 that joins the back sides of the panels. The continuation of the framework around the lateral sides as well as the back sides provides improved shock resistance, reliable alignment and light tightness (col.6, lines 51-59).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Armbruster to have the secondary molded framework be molded to the lateral sides as well as the back side of the screenside and tubeside panels in order to reduce the effects of mechanical shocks, maintain alignment of the film and various elements within the cassette, and to ensure light tightness, as taught by Budinski.

With respect to claim 2, both Armbruster and Budinski disclose a resilient layer secured to the inside face of the screenside panel and an intensifying screen secured to the face of the resilient layer such that upon closure of the screenside panel, with film loaded in the cassette, the intensifying screen comes into uniform surface contact with the film and also aligns itself to the film at the chest wall of the tubeside panel (Fig.5, items 58, 18, 22 of Armbruster; Fig.4, items 8, 4 and 5 of Budinski).

With respect to claim 3, Armbruster further discloses that the back wall has a rear external surface and the top edge is offset forwardly of the back wall rear external surface (Fig.5, item 52) and the back side border segment of the tubeside panel is molded on the top edge with a rear external surface that is at the rear external surface of the tubeside back wall.

With respect to claim 5, Armbruster further discloses upstanding side walls on the tubeside panel that form a film compartment (Figs.2, 6 and 9), where the side walls each have a recess formed at the back thereof adjacent to the hinge, where the cassette further includes a cam tab on the backside border segment of the screenside panel and positioned such that, upon closure, the cam tabs interact with mating surfaces of the recesses to positively align an image intensification screen with a film along the tubeside back wall.

With respect to claims 6 and 7, both Armbruster and Budinski further disclose lateral border segments, where each pair of facing lateral border segments comprise a pair of elongated ridges forming a groove therebetween on one border and an elongated mating ridge positioned on the other border in order to provide a labyrinth light shield along lateral sides of the cassette (Fig.5 of Armbruster; Fig.4 of Budinski).

With respect to claims 8-13, Armbruster further discloses a locating feature comprising a locating tab formed on at least one of the lateral side segments (Fig.8, on left) and a mating notch (not shown) formed in a lateral side segment facing the locating tab, and further where the tab has a truncated pyramid shape and the notch has mating

sloping edges for engaging with the sloping side surfaces of the locating tab, and further where the depth of the notch is greater than the height of the locating tab.

With respect to claims 14 and 15, both Armbruster and Budinski further disclose that the panels are comprised of a thermoplastic material, specifically, polycarbonate (col.6, lines 2-3 of Armbruster; col.5, lines 56-58 of Budinski).

Armbruster does not specifically disclose that the secondary molded framework be made of a thermoset material such as polyurethane.

Budinski specifically teaches that the secondary molded framework can be made of a thermoset material, particularly polyurethane (col.6, lines 51-59). The material provides excellent shock proofing and light tightness for improved imaging.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Armbruster to use polyurethane for the secondary molded framework in order to improve durability and image quality, as taught by Budinski.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Armbruster and Budinski, as applied against claim 1 above, in view of LaBelle (US 4,303,327).

With respect to claim 4, neither Armbruster nor Budinski teach the light-proofing arrangement as claimed. Both prior art references perform the light proofing at the ends of the hinge in different ways, in order to prevent light leaking from the surroundings to compromise the image quality of the film.

LaBelle specifically teaches the practice of having:

a) lateral and backside border segments of the tubeside panel terminate in a pair of upstanding, generally rectangular, integrally molded corner posts (Fig.1, not labeled),

b) having the back side border segment of the tubeside panel having slanted slots formed at each end thereof 22, and

c) the back side border segment of the screenside panel projecting ridges formed at opposite ends thereof adapted to mate with grooves 22 upon closure of the panels such that a light tight seal is thereby formed at each end of the hinge, in order to prevent unwanted exposure of film loaded into the cassette (col.5, lines 50-53; col.8, lines 18-24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the prior art combination of Armbruster/Budinski to have such a light-tight structure in order to prevent unwanted light from compromising the image quality of the film, as taught by LaBelle.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Schmidt (US 4,947,419) teaches a prior art film cassette with a living hinge.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas R. Artman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2485. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am - 5:30pm Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas R. Artman
Patent Examiner

Craig E. Church
Primary Examiner